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Story by **CPL Holly Plata**

Photos by **SPC George Allen**

THREE CH-47 Chinook helicopters swooped in to Nahrin, a small town of adobe buildings in the Baghlan province of Afghanistan.

As the local people ran from the dust clouds generated by the helicopters, soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division jumped out of the Chinooks, formed a perimeter around the aircraft and secured the landing zone.

Civil-affairs soldiers stood by with a team of 30 Afghan workers, ready to unload much-needed supplies for the earthquake-stricken village where 700 people were confirmed dead.

BG David Kratzer, commander of the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force — and deputy commanding general of the 377th Theater Support Command, an Army Reserve unit from New Orleans, La. — sent his soldiers to help soon after hearing of the disaster.

Initially, the Kabul-based CJCMOTF sent out its immediate-reaction force and four of its medical staff to assess the situation.

The CJCMOTF Public Health Team met with the Afghan minister of public health, Dr. Sohila Sedqui, and

CPL Holly Plata and SPC George Allen are deployed in Afghanistan with the 314th Press Camp Headquarters



(Above) A 101st Airborne Div. soldier pulls security near a CH-47 Chinook that carried emergency relief supplies to Nahrin.

(Left) Another 101st soldier helps Afghan villagers unload supplies. These included food, tents and blankets.



R AFGHAN CAMPAIGN

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An Afghan man carries one of the bags of wheat delivered to Nahrin by the Chinook in the background. The supplies were vital to the survivors of the earthquake, which killed more than 700 people in Nahrin.

her team to provide food, medical supplies and other equipment that was most urgently needed.

“We coordinated with the United Nations to let them know we were coming in to deliver goods for distribution,” said SFC Michael France, a Reservist with the 489th CA Battalion, from Knoxville, Tenn. “As the needs of the people changed, we called back to have the items in a particular shipment changed en route.”

“I was in charge of a team of Afghans hired to help off-load the CH-47s,” said SPC Larry Sellers of the 489th CA Bn.

Soldiers from his unit worked with the Afghans for three days. Often, they communicated with basic hand signals to breach the language barrier.

It worked out well, Sellers said. Together they unloaded thousands of supply items, including 380 duffel bags full of cold-weather clothing, 125 cases of dates, 154 five-gallon containers of water, 1,238 cases of bottled water, 261 bags of wheat, 420 cases of MREs and 95 boxes of blankets. They

also distributed tents to provide temporary shelter to those left homeless by the quake.

Additionally, the CA team delivered 1,980 pounds of basic medical supplies, 792 pounds of infusion materials, 528 pounds of drugs, 242 pounds of reusable medical supplies and other medical equipment.

During its first day on the ground, the team cared for some 400 patients.

“It was a lot of hard work, but I believe what we did will help the people of Afghanistan,” said MAJ David Floyd, a medical-service officer with 3rd Medical Command, from Bluff Park, Ala.

When the soldiers left, they turned supplies over to nongovernmental aid organizations that continued to provide disaster relief in and around Nahrin. □



The earthquake destroyed or damaged most structures in Nahrin, so the tents delivered by the Army Chinooks were essential in protecting survivors from the elements.